

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,804,148 (Bedarida). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As to claim 1, Bedarida nowhere teaches supplying a negative voltage to at least one deselected wordline during a programming operation on a selected wordline. Note that while the Office Action refers the Bedarida patent, citations in the Office Action are from the Bedarida publication (i.e., U.S. Publication No.2004/0076037). For consistency, Applicants refer to the Bedarida publication. Bedarida teaches that when a program operation occurs, a ground voltage is applied to unselected wordlines. Bedarida Publication, ¶¶ 33-36. Bedarida only teaches supplying of a negative voltage to selected wordlines during page erase operations. Bedarida Publication, ¶¶ 37-38. Thus Bedarida nowhere teaches supplying a negative voltage to a deselected wordline, and it certainly does not teach supplying such a negative voltage during a programming operation on a selected wordline. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 34, indicated to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable. Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 37 and intervening dependent claim 18. As claim 37 was indicated to include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 and its dependent claims are patentable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 22-25 and 27-30 are allowed. In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

New dependent claim 38 is patentable at least for the same reason as the independent claim from which it depends.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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